REDS
REVIEW

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Issue One : A Look at Season 1990/91

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Intro:

Hello and welcome to Reds Review. A lot of people have asked me why I have produced this publication when we had such a difficult season. I would agree that the season was by no means a classic, but we won two trophies and said goodbye to John Maggs as Manager after years of dedication to the job. Fittingly it was John who saved the Club's Premier status with all the work that he did at Town Mead over the last few months of the season. We now look forward to the future with John as Chairman of the Club and with Brian Sparrow in the Manager's seat. We also have the re-introduction of the Reserve team under the guidance of John Howe.

My thanks go to the Crawley News for letting me use their pictures in this issue and indeed to all the press for making my job as Press Officer enjoyable. I hope that the players finally suss-out which Richard Neil/Neale is which so I don't get any more stick for the 5 or 6 out of 10 that is awarded each week in the Observer.

Thanks for supporting Reds Review.
Best Wishes,

Richard Neil.

REDS REVIEW

Monkey Publishing

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Beazer Homes League
PREMIER DIVISION

NO BED OF ROSES !!

The long awaited season got underway with the long haul up to Moor Green. Sean Edwards netted his first goal since his shoulder injury, but this was not enough to stop the Midlanders who won 2-1.

The following Tuesday saw the Town Mead faithful greet newly promoted Poole Town. The Dolphins had a sensational start to the season and their 4-2 victory against the Reds simply underlined their early season form. Crawley's goals came from Grant Gallagher and former Three Bridges Star Brian Baker.

Ray Walker replaced Dave Winterton between the 'posts for the next game, at home to Halesowen following the two defeats and Damian Webber, back from suspension, replaced Brian Baker at the front. John Maggs' faith in Webber was rewarded by two goals which earned Town their first point of the season. Another point was secured on Bank Holiday Monday at Waterlooville in one of only two League nil-nils for the Reds.

Another three points slipped away at Atherstone in a 1-0 defeat. Team wise, Brian Sparrow moved to left back and Alan Lester went into a Midfield position.

The Tuesday home game against Chelmsford City was notable as Dave Venables' debut for the Reds. Coming on in place of Willie O'Sullivan, Venners wasn't fully fit and we did not see how much of a contribution he would make to the squad later in the season. O'Sullivan's substitution was not taken very well with Willie shouting at Maggs as he made his way to the dressing room. As for the football, Crawley were two-nil down with twenty minutes left, and two Cliff Cant penalties were not enough to save the Reds as the visitors struck a last minute winner.

Rushden Town were the next visitors and Cant made the scoresheet once again before Brian Baker scored with his first touch of the game to level at two-all. Baker sustained a twisted knee during the match, and this was to keep him out of the side for several weeks.

A Tuesday night visit to fellow strugglers, Gravesend & Northfleet lifted some of the gloom. We were treated to an exceptional ninety minutes from Mike Ring. Sparrow replaced Cant for the second half, and he too had an inspired game, hitting the woodwork on two occasions from outside of the area. The final score should have been five or six-nil, but in the end we settled for three points, our first win of the season and just the one goal from Ring.

Burton Albion was the next stop. Another nightmare for the Reds as Simon Redfern's two first half goals sunk Crawley in the windy conditions. Sparrow was taken to hospital with concussion following a clash of heads with the Brewers' defender, Ken Geelan.

Dorchester Town's splendid new Avenue Stadium provided the venue for the next defeat. Two-nil to the home side. Cant was carried off with a knee injury in the last few minutes. On the return journey Maggs confirmed that Alan Lester was to join Hythe Town as captain for an undisclosed four figure fee. Also on the move was Tony Towner, on his way to Gravesend and Northfleet.

Cannon Sean Shot

Maggs took a squad of nineteen to Weymouth. The starting line up saw Alan Massey replacing Alan Lester and Trevor Franklin up front with Craig Whitington. Franklin scored on his league debut, but the lead was cancelled out by Tony Taylor (on loan from Bournemouth) for the Terras.

The home game against VS Rugby provided the other goalless draw, but it was in no way short on entertainment. Dave Winterton, back in place of Walker played superbly throughout and Massey made a goal line clearance in the last few minutes.

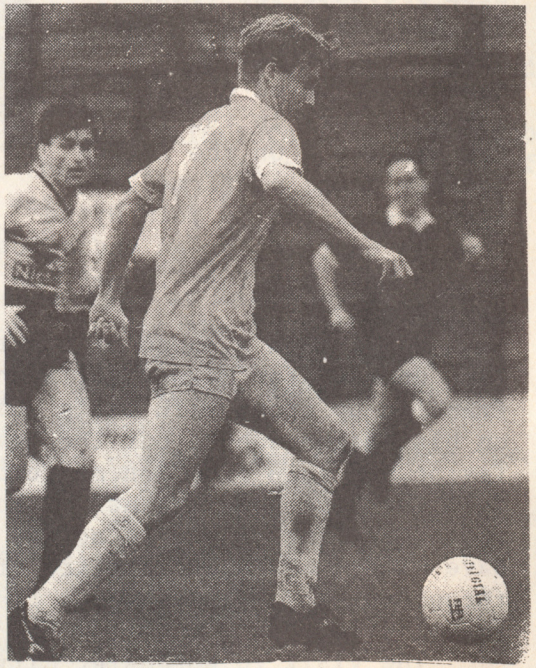
The visit to Worcester City saw another three points

drift away with Tony Vessey deflecting a Tony Dornan cannon-ball over the helpless Winterton into the back of the net. Worcester's second was from the spot by top scorer, Steve Fergusson after he had been brought down by Webber. Despite the result, the Reds had turned in a respectable performance against the League leaders.

Poor Vessey added to his own goal tally the following Saturday against Cambridge City. Horace Nelson's first League goal for Crawley delighted the home fans and salvaged the draw.

If Vessey had been the villain versus Cambridge, then Cant took the title at home to Dartford. Cliff missing the penalty that cost the Reds their first home win of the season. Wickens was Town's two goal hero with Jimmy Sheringham and John Leslie netting for the Darts.

The following week, again at home, the lads really turned it on with a three-nil lead at half time courtesy of Sparrow, Norris and Cant. Bromsgrove nearly turned the tables in the second half, pulling back two goals and with only ten men on the park following a sending off. The Reds just did enough to hold on for their first home victory of the season.



Venners in full flight

The euphoria of victory was short lived as we crashed 5-0 away to Gloucester City. James Cunningham stood in for the injured Edwards with Sparrow returning to his left back position in place of Massey.

Two new names appeared in the home game to Farnborough. Those of Chris Hamshare and Jimmy Brown. Despite this, we still lost one-nil.

New Year's day saw the trip to Dover in which Craig Whitington scored his first League goal in the one-all draw.

Beazer BEAZER HOMES

Brown was beginning to make his mark in the side and scored next time out at Chelmsford. Cant, Whitington and Edwards also netted in a magnificent 4-1 victory.

The next game was at home to Bashley with Wickens returning from injury. Neil only made the bench as Webber had been so impressive at the back in Wickens' absence.

Jimmy Brown hits form

Things were looking a lot more positive with the Reds adding to their impressive run with another win, this time 1-0 thanks to a Cliff Cant goal. With the season at the halfway stage, the table looked like this:-

	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge C	21	12	7	2	35	17	43
Dover Ath	21	12	5	4	34	18	41
Worcester C	22	12	4	6	34	17	40
Gloucester C	21	11	6	4	40	23	39
Burton Albion	21	11	5	5	40	28	38
Bromsgrove R	21	10	7	4	39	27	37
Farnborough	22	11	4	7	35	32	37
Halesowen	21	10	4	7	37	33	34
VS Rugby	21	10	4	7	33	31	34
Bashley	23	9	6	8	34	31	33
Moor Green	22	10	2	10	39	41	32
Dorchester T	22	9	4	9	27	30	31
Wealdstone	21	9	4	8	31	35	31
Atherstone	23	8	3	12	29	32	27
Poole Town	21	7	4	10	32	42	25
Rushden	22	6	6	10	31	33	24
Waterlooville	21	5	8	8	26	29	23
Chelmsford C	21	6	5	10	30	40	23
Crawley T	**21**	**4**	**8**	**9**	**23**	**34**	**20**
Dartford	21	5	4	12	25	40	19
Weymouth	23	2	8	13	27	49	14
Gravesend & N	21	2	5	14	18	46	11

Weymouth are slightly flattered here having played two games more than Gravesend, who also have the worst goal difference. Not surprisingly, Cambridge City have the best goal difference at this stage.

Brown added to his goal tally at Dartford in a 6-1 defeat and at home to Worcester City in another 1-1 draw. Tony Towner was a welcome returnee at Dartford following another change of management at Gravesend. Tony's return to the Reds was on a free transfer.

Another defeat followed, this time at Farnborough. The side included Brown's former Kingstonian striking partner, Graham Westley, who Maggs had been trying get on loan for several weeks.

One goal was enough to steal three points from Moor Green at home. A beautiful Neil Wickens through ball found Venables who shot the ball home from a very acute angle after beating defender Derek Allen. Victory once again in the next home game versus ailing Gravesend & Northfleet. Town came back from being one-nil down with two Hamshare specials set up by Whitington and Vessey. Next time out, at Bromsgrove, it was Westley's turn for a brace of goals. The Rovers still managed to win 3-2. This was Westley's last League appearance for the Reds.

Venables and Winterton were the men to thank at VS Rugby. Venners with his 19th minute strike and Winterton with some superb stops which kept the scoreline at 1-0. Venables was now playing at centre-forward with Towner filling in on the right flank.

Perversely, Town struggled again when facing lowly Weymouth at Town Mead. Brown and Hamshare made their mark with a goal each. Weymouth's Steve Pugh missed a penalty leaving the Reds very grateful for the 2-2 draw.

The next match is generally regarded as the one which left us in such a bad position. 3-1 up with fifteen minutes left (Hamshare and Brown-twice scoring), Gloucester City never gave up the fight and pulled back to 3-3 at full time.

Morale must have been low after that one because the visit to Wealdstone ended in a 2-0 defeat which included a Sean Edwards own goal. April Fool's day saw Dover Athletic take three points back to Kent with them with a Tony Rogers goal early in the second half.

A Wednesday night trip up the M11 to Cambridge proved even less fruitful. A 4-1 whipping with the only consolation being another Hamshare gem set up by Craig Whitington.

Things were looking up when Burton Albion paid their visit to Town Mead. Whitington's Venables made goal negated Burton's sixth minute lead. Towner had his only netting of the season denied for off-side in the 1-1 draw.

The Reds' first ever trip to Halesowen Town was a Thursday nigther and a superb 2-1 victory courtesy of messrs. Whitington and Venables. The following Saturday was another first visit. This time to Bashley. It resulted in another win with Grant Gallagher successfully converting Hamshare's pinpoint cross in the 80th minute.

Brown hit form again to fire home the winner at home

Beazer BEAZER HOMES

The superb Chris Hamshare

against Wealdstone. Dave Winterton was also impressive yet again with another clean sheet in the 1-0 win.

The Tuesday trip to Rushden saw a tired Reds side slip nearer to relegation. A 'Six pointer' that went the hosts' way 3-1. Hamshare got the consolation goal from a rebounding Gallagher effort.

Another Tuesday night and another 'six pointer'. This time at home to Waterlooville. A superb team performance hidden by the 1-0 scoreline. Sean Edwards scored with a stunning 30-yard screamer which will be long remembered as probably goal of the season.

Crawley Town 1, Atherstone 0 was the result of the April 27th encounter. Sean Edwards hooked a Kim Green shot off the line after 11 minutes. Whitington had a header disallowed for a foul on the keeper. Hamshare delivered the goods once again getting his head to the winner in the 48th minute. Cant, who had set up the winner, also had a shot tipped over the bar in injury time.

Our fourth meeting of the season with Dorchester Town was also our fourth defeat at their hands. Mick Greeno grabbing the winner in our last home league game of the season.

Relegation hung on the visit to Poole Town who themselves had to win to stay up. Poole were also having problems off the field with their local council who insisted on a fire safety check at the game. A limit of 500 was imposed

on the attendance, and even though this was way above the average attendance at the Stadium, many people still had difficulty getting in. Just ask Dave Haining.

Despite these problems it was the football that decided the relegation issue. Nicky Dent struck twice for the Dolphins to secure their Premier League status for next season. Having dropped three points, the Reds were relying on Chelmsford to lose at Dorchester to stay in a safe position. The news from The Avenue was not good as Chelmsford had levelled the game in the second half thus saving themselves on goal difference. The final table looked like this:

Beazer Homes League Premier Division
1990/91 Season Final Table:

	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Farnborough	42	26	7	9	79	44	85
Gloucester C	42	23	14	5	86	49	83
Cambridge C	42	21	14	7	63	43	77
Dover Ath	42	21	11	10	56	37	74
Bromsgrove R	42	20	11	11	68	49	71
Worcester C	42	18	12	12	55	42	66
Burton Albion	42	15	15	12	59	48	60
Halesowen T	42	17	9	16	73	67	60
VS Rugby	42	16	11	15	56	46	59
Bashley	42	15	12	15	56	52	57
Dorchester T	42	15	12	15	47	54	57
Wealdstone	42	16	8	18	58	58	56
Dartford	42	15	9	18	61	64	54
Rushden T	42	14	11	17	64	66	53
Atherstone	42	14	14	10	55	58	52
Moor Green	42	15	6	21	64	75	51
Poole Town	42	12	13	17	56	69	49
Chelmsford C	42	11	15	16	55	66	48
Crawley T	**42**	**12**	**12**	**18**	**45**	**67**	**48**
Waterlooville	42	11	13	18	49	68	46
Gravesend & N	42	9	7	26	46	91	34
Weymouth	42	4	12	26	50	88	24

Farnborough were sent back to the Conference and Weymouth were deservedly relegated in to the Southern division. Rushden, most undeservedly, were also relegated because their ground had not met the Beazer Homes League standard. Crawley had been saved by the extensive work done by John Maggs and his other team in bringing the Town Mead ground up to standard. Waterlooville and Gravesend also escaped the chop as there were no other teams from the feeder divisions with Premier Division standard grounds.

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SWEET FA!

The headline just about sums it up. Let's take the FA Cup first. Our first encounter was against Eastbourne United at their near derelict 'Oval' ground. In some ways it was a good fixture, especially as it was our first meeting since defeating them at the end of the 1989/90 season in the Senior Cup Final.

Eastbourne fielded a similar side to the last encounter with John Daubney and the 'stocky' Jimmy Chater, but without Dave Venables who was on holiday and would sign for Crawley on his return. Eastbourne did have former Reds player Danny Ashworth though.

Maggs' men soon came to terms with the uneven pitch. Sparrow, unusually, scoring with his right foot. Ashworth had a couple of near misses in the second half which kept Ray Walker alert in the Reds' goal. Steve Norris ensured victory with a goal in the 80th minute.
Grant Gallagher had a nasty moment in the first half when making a characteristic run down the left. A challenge by Ashworth saw both players fly off the pitch with Gally head butting the Crawley Dug-out and Ashworth's boot finding its way to Jamie Cunningham's leg. Jamie was only sitting on the Subs bench at the time and must have been the only player to be injured at a match without playing.

Hopes were building in the Town for a good Cup run and the team made its way to Worthing for the second qualifying round. In a typically depressing performance, the Reds threw away a two goal lead in the last twenty minutes. Ray Walker gave away the first Worthing goal, diving over an easy save. Vessey's back pass opened the door for the equaliser and then Craig Whitington completed his hat-trick for Worthing sending Crawley home with their tails securely between their legs. After the game, John Maggs was subjected to a considerable amount of verbal abuse by the travelling Reds 'fans'. There endeth our FA Cup run.

On then to the FA Trophy and more realistic dreams of a Wembley appearance (?). Hampton were the first hurdle to overcome. The draw had given The Reds home advantage and Maggs took the interesting decision to play Sparrow at Centre forward. Brian had one shot on target that was disallowed following some shirt pulling. Nil-nil and a trip to Hampton for the replay.

Another Draw, but this time two-all. Crawley were

SWEET FA!

handed one own goal and an O'Sullivan penalty. This was Willie's first game for several weeks. He had disappeared from the scene follwing the Chelmsford home League clash where he had disagreed with his substitution.

Back to Town Mead for the second replay. Gallagher opened the scoring but Dave Venables was fast becoming the man to watch and a firm favourite with the faithful as he knocked home the second. Wickens capped another polished performance with the third and then Hampton staged a comeback through some sloppy defending on a free kick and a Ray Walker error. Mike Ring's header finally killed off Hampton's chances by four goals to two. After the game Maggs announced that he was putting seven players on the transfer list. The magnanimous seven were : Ray Walker, Sean Edwards, Alan Lester, Damian Webber, Brian Sparrow, Tony Towner and Mike Ring. The reason behind Maggs' action was the lack of performance from a team that on paper should have been delivering the goods. John stated,

"This is the most drastic thing I've had to do in ten years as Manager. They are all quality players, but at the moment I could get the same results for a quarter of the wages we are paying."

The second qualifying round was away to Southern Division Gosport and produced another draw. Town gave another bland first half with Cant in particular looking below par following a knee injury a week previously at Dorchester. Town's breakthrough came in the 59th minute when Sean Edwards made a superb pass into the area where Norris did his job to the letter by heading the ball over the keeper's head and into the back of the net. Gosport pulled level twenty minutes later. An attacking cross from the right caught Wickens on the arm in the area. Winterton saved the resulting shot but the referee insisted on a re-take as Edwards was alleged to have had a foot inside the area as the shot was taken. Needless to say that Winterton did not manage to save the re-take.

A penalty decided the replay at Town Mead. The score was nil-nil after 90 minutes after Cliff Cant had missed his 84th minute penalty. Dave Taviner got the winner for Gosport 14 minutes into extra-time.

So, the 'Road to Wembley' came to an end.

EBM

CUP GLORY

Sussex Senior Cup

Crawley's defence of the Sussex Senior Cup started at County League Hailsham. The Reds struggled for ninety minutes and were short of players with Ray Walker on the bench as second sub.

A disappointing 1-1 draw was the result with the Reds only goal form Steve Norris. Halisham's goal was from debutant, Barry Kenward who made a lovely chip over Dave Winterton from the edge of the area.

Craig Whitington was the hero of the replay. Craig's two headers were complemented by a rare Horace Nelson goal five minutes from time. Final score, Crawley 3, Hailsham 1.

The Quarter final was away to Whitehawk. The County League side were given a sound 5-0 thrashing courtesy of Messrs Brown, Whitington (2) and Venables (2).

The Semi Final was once again at the delightfully named Dripping Pan ground at Lewes. Hastings

Craig Whitington

CUP GLORY

were the opponents in a bad tempered game which the Reds dominated. Chances went both ways but in the end it was Whitington once again the hero in the 73rd minute, hammering home a Tony Towner cross to book the Reds' visit to the Goldstone Ground for the final.

1,682 fans crammed themselves into the West Stand for the final which was once again held under blue skies. Against the run of play, Littlehampton opened the scoring after 23 minutes. Chris Prees toed the ball to Paul Bennett who fired across the goal for his brother Mark who slotted the ball home.

Crawley had made most of the play, but as had been the story most of the season, the ball would not go into the net. To be fair, the Marigolds' goal keeper, Micky Phillips had a near perfect match and denied the Reds on several occasions. Eventually it was Grant Gallagher who levelled with a short range, right foot volley set up by Dave Venables. Whitington, who had been so impressive in the qualifying rounds had a very disappointing game and was replaced by Jamie Cunningham in extra time. Phillips continued to deny Crawley - attempts from Wickens and Webber being halted and a Wednesday night replay at Worthing looked on the cards. With just ten minutes left, Cliff Cant made a splendid pass to cropped haired Tony Towner who crossed first time to the near post where Jimmy Brown headed home in sensational style to keep the Trophy at Town Mead for another 12 months.

Crawley Town: Winterton, Edwards, Massey, Wickens, Webber, Cant, Venables, Hamshare (Towner-58 mins), Whitington (Cunningham-105 mins), Brown, Gallagher

Bookings: Whitington (dissent), Wickens (foul).

Left:

Cant and Winterton Celebrate- Gally takes a nap.

Larchimage

The Larchimage Windows Cup is probably better known as the Southern League Cup. Round One saw us up against the now defunct Folkestone 1990. The away leg was won 4-2 with goals from Vessey, Venables, Norris and Nelson. This was Horace's first goal for the Reds. Chris Hamshare was one of the older faces in the largely youthful Folkestone side, but failed to make any impression. Nelson and Norris or "Horace and Norris" as they were dubbed by the fans, both scored again in the second leg putting the Reds through 6-2 on aggregate. Steve's goal was the infamous incident where the crowd jeered him as he came on in place of Nelson only to score with his first touch of the game.

We drew Dorchester for round two. The good news was that it meant another visit to the superb Avenue stadium. The bad news was that the Magpies were a bogey side to us all season. The first leg was at home and saw Dorchester victorious by two goals to one. Whitington got the Reds' lone goal whilst Peter Morrell and Neil Coates did the business for the Magpies.

Larchimage

The second leg was Ray Walker's last game for the Reds as we lost 2-1 once again. Tony Diaz netted both for Dorchester and Whitington scored another for Crawley. Aggregate score, Dorchester 4, Crawley 2.

PREMIER INTER LEAGUE CHALLENGE

Thursday 9th October was Cliff Cant's night. Not testimonial, but a superb display that pulled the Reds back from a three goal deficit in the last fifteen minutes. The venue was Town Mead, the opponents were Basingstoke Town. O'Sullivan's 78th minute penalty got the ball rolling, then Cant got on the scoresheet from a Gallagher cross. In the 83rd minute, Gallagher himself scored and sent the game into extra time. Cliff slammed in two more goals in the extra half hour to complete his first Crawley hat-trick and the most memorable home game for some time. Many of the Crawley fans had already started leaving the ground and missed the amazing comeback.

The next round was away to Weymouth. Tony Ropke made his debut and Tony Vessey scored his first ever goal for Weymouth but then made amends by scoring for the Reds. Gally got the other Town goal in a 2-2 draw that had gone to extra time and earned a home replay. At Town Mead another disaster ensued with Neil Wickens taking his turn to score an own goal that was enough to end Crawley's hopes in another Cup competition.

KNIGHT FLOODLIGHT CUP

A poor effort from the Reds in this one, losing all four games. In chronological order these were: Hythe (home) 0-1, Hythe (away) 0-2, Dover (home) 2-3 and Dover (away) 1-5. Hamshare scored against Dover whilst Westley and Edwards did the honours against Hythe.

The Reds will not be taking part in this competition next season, and this years games were only notable for the inclusion of trialists, Piper and Bedding in the away leg against Hythe. Former Dorking reserve 'keeper, Paul Gage played in both of the Dover games and the away leg had Dave Haining as second sub!

Sussex Floodlight Cup

Webber - In Stitches

The Sussex Floodlight Cup campaign started on Tuesday November 6th. The First Round, First Leg was away to Worthing who had the distinction of knocking us out of the same competition for the last two seasons at the Semi-final stage. Town made an inauspicious start with Damian Webber getting involved in a hard clash of heads which necessitated a trip to Hospital for stitches. Nelson came on as sub with Steve Norris moving to a centre back position for the remainder of the match. The Reds left themselves with a lot to do in the second leg with a 2-1 defeat. Craig Whitington's superb volleyed goal was a contender for goal of the season.

Webber was fit for the second leg at Town Mead just over a month later and scored two goals in the 5-0 whitewash. Alan Massey's former Army playing colleague, Mike Partington also scored two goals in his only full game for Town of the season. Crawley's other came from Gallagher. Former Three Bridges left back, Terry Hanlon made his first full team appearance for the Reds in this game. His stint with Crawley was not to last, however as he eventually signed for County League Division One side, Oakwood.

Round Two and a meeting with Whitehawk who we were also to meet in the Senior Cup. The home leg was won 2-0 with Brown and Whitington goals. The away leg was rather more dramatic. Gallagher suffered a bad knock

in the second half which resulted in a six inch gash in his leg. With the bone showing through, Gally still played the last fifteen minutes of the match before paying a lengthy visit to Hospital. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, but that was enough to secure a quarter final clash with Bognor.

The away leg was first, and a six goal, 3-3 thriller with the scorers being Cant, Hamshare and Westley. The home leg saw Hamshare score once again, this time with Brown and Venables goals adding in the 3-1 victory.

Hastings were the opposition in the semi-final, coincidentally as they had been in the Senior Cup semi-final, so there was some pride at stake. The first leg was at home and despite the result was a game that most of us would like to forget. In a very 'physical' 90 minutes, both Tony Vessey and Brian Sparrow's seasons ended. Vess was brought down by Carlton Winter and sustained a broken fibula. Sparrow's knee injury was more serious and there is still a question mark over his future playing career. Despite all this, the Reds won 3-1 through Whitington, Brown and Hamshare.

If the first leg had been bad enough then the second leg continued the theme with 14 minutes of injury time. Webber had taken over from Vessey at centre-back, pairing up with Neil Wickens whilst Cliff Cant took over as captain. The Reds sealed their second final of the season with a 2-2 draw through Hamshare and Whitington setting up a visit to Lancing for the final against Lewes.

The final was on the 2nd May which was two days before the final league game of the season and four days before the Senior Cup final, so Town had three important games in four days and an injury hit squad with which to do it. Maggs recalled Steve Norris from East Grinstead for the game, and it was Norris who set up the winning goal in the 14th minute. Steve beat a defender and passed across the goal, leaving Whitington to tap the ball home. Crawley had several chances saved, notably a Brown volley and a Webber header from a Hamshare free-kick. Dave Venables was rested for

Sussex Floodlight Cup

this match for the all important final League game and the Senior Cup final. In the absence of Cliff Cant, Neil Wickens captained the side and lifted the trophy at the end of the evening. For the record, the side was: Winterton, Edwards, Massey, Wickens, Webber, Towner, Norris, Hamshare, Whitington (Cunningham), Brown, Gallagher. Sub (not used) Venables.

Man of the match was Steve Norris.

Other Games

The Roy Hayden Memorial Trophy is an annual event held between the previous season's County League winners and the Senior Cup Winners. Wick won the League the previous season and they were our opponents in the first competetive game of the 90/91 season.

Being early in the season, John Maggs used the match as a chance to try out several players and the side included Danny Ashworth who later went to Eastbourne United. Crawley won the game 3-0 (Sparrow, O'Sullivan and Gallagher).

Wicko-Floodlight Cup Skipper

Cliff Cant had another good year with the Reds and this was celebrated in fine style on May 16th when Cliff had his Testimonial game. Brighton and Hove Albion brought a full first team squad to Town Mead for the occasion just three days before their Barclays League

Division Two play-off semi-final against Millwall.

The Crawley side featured a number of ex Reds players from the past along with the current favourites. Brighton scored first as Mike Small headed home from former Town star, John Robinson's cross. Crawley fought back and nearly levelled on two occasions through Tommy Warrilow and ex-Chelsea star, Micky Fillery. Brighton continued to dominate the proceedings and were awarded a penalty in the 44th minute when Webber brought down Small in the area. Guest goalkeeper, Trevor Inch, made a superb save of Small's shot to close the first half.

Crawley finally equalised with a Whitington header on 69 minutes from a Steve Breach free-kick. Despite this, it was to be Brighton's result as Alan Lester made an own goal with a lobbed back-pass and then Crawley based Seagull, David Coldwell flicked home the third from Greg O'Dowd's corner kick.

After the game Brian Sparrow gave his first press call as manager, along with John Howe who had also just been appointed as manager of the new Reserve side.

Fancy footwork from da boss

Who's Who

The annual end of season dinner dance was at the Gatwick Concorde Hotel. Tony Vessey was voted Players' Player of the season, Damian Webber was the Crawley News player of the season and Dave Venables was the Crawley Observer player of the season.

The Observer also presented an award to the most improved player which went to Alan Massey.

The Supporters Club player of the Season went to Dave Winterton whilst Chris Hamshare received a special award for his contribution to the second half of the season.

At board level, there

Mr Chairman

a number of changes with Trevor Forsdick standing down as Chairman before John Maggs took over. Trevor remains on the board for the new season and is joined by former Football League linesman, Alan Foot, who has taken over as company secretary. During the year, long time supporter, Mick Fox was also appointed to the board. The only other change was that former Press Officer, Jim Green, left the board at the start of the season, then rejoined at the end.

Phil Bryant's Bit

The 1990/91 season proved a frustrating term for both Reds players and fans alike with the season promising so much across the board, but only really delivering in Sussex.

Crawley always seemed to find the going tough with, despite a late run, the side constantly associated with relegation troubles.

As a reporter, the year proved just as hard going with myself trying to stay on the right side of the Club, while at the same time trying to write about the Reds' woes. This certainly proved the case with the League campaign where pre-season expectations certainly weren't realised.

The prestigious Cup competitions such as the FA Cup and the FA Trophy also proved no exception to the disappointing start. It was these knockout competitions which sparked off one of the first of many major changes over the year, with Manager John Maggs having eight players on the transfer list after the Reds' FA Cup exit at Worthing.

Changes in the Reds' line up were evident throughout the season, particularly in the striking department where Maggs used a variety of forwards, before settling on the pairing of Jimmy Brown and Craig Whitington. Despite these frustrating factors, there were a number of good

points to come out of the year. One of these is the heartening late run which saw Crawley just miss out on finishing above the relegation positions. This run certainly had a positive effect on the club with the Reds finishing 8th in the second half of the season form table.

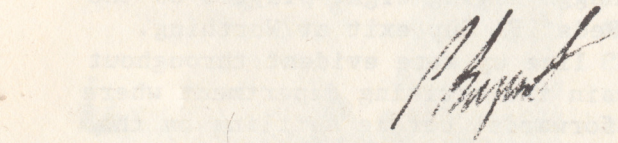
Another cause for considerable cheer was the double Cup win which gave Crawley the extremely enviable title of being the undisputed best Non League side in Sussex.

The Victory at the Goldstone was a particularly pleasing sight with the fans turning up in their numbers to see the Reds salvage an enormous amount of pride from an inconsistent League season.

One of the most gratifying sights was John Maggs who worked tirelessly both on and off the field for the club. It is therefore a fitting tribute for John to take over as Chairman after running his heart out for the Club both in playing and managerial capacities. It is equally as pleasing for anyone involved with the Club to have John at the helm, with it being so unusual these days to have a Chairman so committed to the Club. It is this kind of foundation which the Club should be looking to build on with the appointment of Brian Sparrow proving promising for the future. Brian's contacts throughout football have already earned him respect from the fans and I hope his early season success in bringing top class teams to Town Mead for the friendlies will continue through the season.

Second half of the season form guide:

	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Farnborough	20	15	3	2	44	12	48
Gloucester C	21	12	8	1	46	26	44
Dartford	21	10	5	6	36	24	35
Bromsgrove R	21	10	4	7	29	22	34
Cambridge C	21	9	7	5	28	26	34
Dover Ath	21	9	6	6	22	19	33
Rushden	20	8	5	7	28	33	29
Crawley T	**21**	**8**	**4**	**9**	**22**	**33**	**28**
Halesowen	21	7	5	9	36	34	26
Worcester C	20	6	8	6	21	25	26
Dorchester T	20	6	8	6	20	24	26
VS Rugby	21	6	7	8	23	15	25
Wealdstone	21	7	4	10	27	23	25
Atherstone	19	6	7	6	26	26	25
Chelmsford C	21	5	10	6	25	26	25
Bashley	19	6	6	7	22	21	25
Poole Town	21	5	9	7	24	27	24
Waterlooville	21	6	5	10	23	39	23
Gravesend & N	21	7	2	12	28	45	23
Burton Albion	21	4	10	7	19	20	22
Moor Green	20	5	4	11	25	34	19
Weymouth	19	2	4	13	23	39	10



Phil Bryant

Gavin Gleave with John Maggs and Tony Vessey look forward to the new season

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REQUIRE PLAYERS OF ALL AGES

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